

Filed for intro on 04/24/2002

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 886

By Buck

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Mr. Gordon Oldham of Carthage.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Mr. Gordon Oldham; and

WHEREAS, Gordon Oldham was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a native of Pleasant Shade, Mr. Oldham was born to loving parents, Charlie S. and Lucinda Porter Oldham, on April 11, 1916; and

WHEREAS, a 1934 graduate of Carthage High School, Gordon Oldham attended Middle Tennessee State University and earned his Teaching Certificate in 1935; and

WHEREAS, in 1935, Mr. Oldham began teaching in the Smith County School System, educating children at community schools in Cartwright, Elmwood, Buffalo, and Carthage; and

WHEREAS, he diligently served as an educator until 1940 when he accepted a position with Citizen's Bank; and

WHEREAS, after five years of dedicated service, Mr. Oldham left the bank and began his insurance career with the former Myers and Gardenhire Insurance Agency in Carthage; and

WHEREAS, by 1960, Gordon Oldham had purchased the interests of Mr. Fred Myers and Mr. Jere Gardenhire and began his own insurance agency; and

WHEREAS, after twelve years of remarkable success, Mr. Oldham sold his insurance agency and retired in 1972; and

WHEREAS, Gordon Oldham's dedicated and outstanding service as an insurance agent earned the respect of his peers and clients alike, as he was renowned for his integrity and honesty as a businessman; and

WHEREAS, during his much deserved retirement, Mr. Oldham spent a great deal of his time at his secluded farm, "Ouchonder," in the Pea Ridge community; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Oldham attended the Carthage First Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, an active member of the Carthage community, Mr. Oldham was a member of numerous organizations, including the Carthage Rotary Club, the Difficult Masonic Lodge 451, the Smith County Shrine Club, and the Al Menah Temple; and

WHEREAS, he was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his parents, Charlie S. and Lucinda Porter Oldham; brothers, Gene Oldham, Sr. and Earl Oldham; and his wife of thirty-five years, Mrs. Edwina Key Oldham; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Oldham will be greatly missed by his daughter, Roberta Oldham, and her husband, Bill, and his son, George Oldham; and

WHEREAS, he will be lovingly remembered by his devoted friend of twenty-three years, Mrs. Ruby Flowers; and

WHEREAS, Gordon Oldham was the loving grandfather of six grandchildren, Debbie Hill, Leslie Caplenor, Scott Wilson Oldham, Chris Oldham, Tommy Oldham, and Patricia Driver, and nine great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gordon Oldham leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Mr. Gordon Oldham, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Gordon Oldham.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.